

World Tour

Golf Links

By
Steve Hale

There are golfers among us who have the resources to play at Augusta National, St. Andrews, Winged Foot and Valderrama.

Fortunately, for the rest of us, there is the World Tour Golf Links in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

A "tribute" course, inspired by famous holes around the world, World Tour Golf Links features 27 holes we all dream of playing: No. 17 at The Players Course in Ponte Vedra, Fla., holes 11, 12 and 13 that form Augusta National's famed "Amen Corner," and a walk over the fabled bridge across the Swilcan Burn on the 18th at St. Andrews, Scotland.

Of the courses that inspired the World Tour, 16 of them are so exclusive that the average golfer would not be able to play them at any price. For the six that are open to the public, the greens fee for a round at each would total more than \$1,000. But there is more than tribute in these links.

It is hard to stand out above the crowd in Myrtle Beach, with its more than 100 courses and designation as the number one golf destination in America. But World Tour Golf Links not only stands out, it was voted the 2004 National Golf Course of the Year by the National Golf Course Owners Association.

Director of Golf Dennis Nicholl said the recognition comes from a total golf experience. "We don't try to exactly duplicate other courses, but when our guests see what we have done they appreciate the feel and the look of the holes they have watched on tournament golf for years," he said.

"But we would be selling ourselves short if that was all we did. It is a great facility with five-star service, and the condition of the course is fantastic year round. People come

the first time for the novelty, but it is the overall golfing experience of World Tour that makes them come back and bring their friends," Nicholl added.

Like players in the Masters, guests at World Tour Golf Links drive up a magnolia-lined drive to a grand Old South Antebellum Clubhouse.

There they are met by their group's own "Ambassador," a guide who will take care of them for the rest of their stay. The Ambassador greets them and gives each their "Passport," a keepsake document that provides their tee times and other information, which is stamped like a Customs document in the golf shop.

The practice range is stocked with premium golf balls and each golf cart is equipped with Uplink GPS to provide precise yardages and a short history of each inspired hole.

Nicholl said there are other tribute courses, most notably, Renditions Golf Club in Davidsonville, MD, Golden Ocala Golf & Equestrian Club (FL), and Tour 18 in Dallas and Houston, Texas, which pioneered the concept in 1992.

But at less than five years old, World Tour Golf Links is the only course of its ilk in South Carolina.

"We provide a wonderful golfing occasion," Nicholl said. "Come play with us for the excitement of playing the holes you have always dreamed of. Then come back for the total golf experience you found at World Tour Golf Links."

Find out more...

World Tour Golf Links
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